

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I write to you today in **opposition** to S.B.16 and H.B. 5416.

I also write in **support** of S.B. 388, and H.B. 5415

For years gun control has been hailed as the solution to crime. However, this is merely a straw man set to ignore our socioeconomic and healthcare issues. Communities become safe when everyone is housed, fed, and not desperate for healthcare.

From the passing of Connecticut's assault weapon ban the opposition has been able to champion their solution, when Connecticut's substantial social service offerings should be credited with our low crime rate.

In regards to S.B. 16, we have had "others" and pre-ban firearms since the assault weapon ban was last revised. There are tens of thousands of these firearms in circulation, owned by law-abiding citizens. The existence of "others" serve as a testament to the fact that the firearms community of Connecticut wants to be legal and legitimized. Law-abiding citizens want to do anything but commit crime, even moving to pay double or triple the market value of these firearms to defend themselves, but continue to be compliant. Criminals do not follow laws such as these bans, and with the vast majority of crimes involving firearms being committed by people that aren't permitted to have firearms we have proof of this. This piece of legislation does nothing to criminals, and everything to the 320,000+ permitted firearms owners in our state.

In regards to H.B. 5416, straw purchasing of firearms is already illegal. If someone is bulk purchasing with the plan to resell illegally, they're already committing a crime. This law will only affect citizens that are acquiring pistols for any other legal purpose.

Crime is a symptom of a system that ignores the needs of the people, and is not the fault of legal firearms ownership. "Assault weapons" is a term used to devalue the purpose of all firearms, which is to protect our home and country.

Thank you for your careful attention to this.

Jon Russo
Trumbull